MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Sir, I beg permission to make a motion for the adjournment of the House.

(The member then presented a written statement to the President)

PRESIDENT: I have received a letter from one of the members of this House—Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai—in which he says :

"Sir, this Council is of opinion that, by violating the convention whereunder at least four meetings of the Council were held each year, considerable danger is caused to the public interest by diminishing the opportunity for discussing various subjects of far-reaching importance to the public." And there it ends. It says an explanatory note* is appended,

I do not quite know what this is, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai, whether it is a resolution that you propose to move or what it is.

** Explanatory Note.*

"Sir, I wish to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance namely the danger to the rights of the people on account of the systematic encroachment on the rights and privileges of the members of this Council by the Executive and the immediate necessity of calling attention of the authorities to this danger. The systematic encroachment of the executive on the rights and privileges of the members of this Council is evident from many facts. There used to be at least four meetings of the Council every year. A convention has thus been created during the first three years of the Council. The usefulness of the Council depends not a little on the frequency of its meetings, however much it may be irksome to the executive. Though a convention was created by the practice of the previous years, the Dewan seems to have been little troubled by the convention and has convened only two meetings during a period of 9 months this year. Even with regard to the allotment of days in these meetings the Dewan appears to be unnecessarily illiberal even though he has been confronted with a large volume of work in the shape of questions, resolutions and Bills. Another fact which would prove the encroachment complained of is the illiberal and unsustainable interpretation given to Section 12 of the Regulation by the Dewan in regard to the right of a non-official member to introduce a Bill into the Council. Any Bill that might cause some possible expenditure on the part of the Government even though it does not affect the public revenues of the State or impose any charge on such revenues will come according to the new interpretation of the Government under Section 12 which requires that the member should obtain in such cases previous sanction in writing of the Dewan. It is difficult to imagine a Bill, however carefully drafted, which may not entail some sort of expenditure on the part of Government. This strange interpretation would therefore practically prevent the non-official members from the due exercise of the rights conferred by the Regulation. I do not mean to refer here to the absolutely unsustainable and illiberal way in which questions and resolutions are modified or disallowed. For this is not the place where that aspect of the matter, however important and urgent it might be could be urged. Unless immediate attention is called to this systematic encroachment on the part of the executive the rights and privileges conferred by the Regulation will be seriously endangered. This subject is therefore a matter of urgent public importance and I beg leave to make this motion."

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That is a motion.

PRESIDENT: For what?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): A motion for adjournment. I have given a statement along with it.

PRESIDENT: And your request for leave to make a motion is verbal?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): It is not a verbal request.

PRESIDENT: This paper does not contain any request.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): That is the motion and there is an explanatory statement appended to it.

PRESIDENT: I have considered the matter carefully. To begin with, there is nothing urgent about the subject-matter of your motion. Besides, you refer to the Council having had four meetings each year, which is not in accordance with fact, I am informed. Consequently, there can be no talk of violating a convention of four meetings. There is no such convention. In any case, it is a matter which refers to the future—the number of meetings that are held in the year—and it cannot be therefore described as a matter of urgent public importance. In view of these facts, I am constrained to withhold permission for you to introduce the motion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I offer a word of explanation?

PRESIDENT: That terminates the matter, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai.

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